

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SS-15 NSC-05

PRS-01 /042 W

----- 005085

O R 071801Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8707

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 07807

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PGOB, UG

SUBJECT: AMIN'S REACTION TO THE SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

REFS: A. SECTO 11345; B. BONN 7411

THE FRG FOREIGN OFFICE HAS PASSED US THE FOLLOWING
MESSAGE SENT AT 12:27 MAY 7 BY THE FRG EMBASSY IN
KAMPALA (WHICH REPRESENTS U.S. INTERESTS THERE), FOR
TRANSMISSION TO THE DEPARTMENT.

BEGIN TEXT

1. BECAUSE OF OTHER DUTIES, PRESIDENT AMIN WAS
NOT ABLE TO RECEIVE ME AND ASKED ME TO DELIVER
MESSAGE TO HIS PRINCIPAL PRIVATE SECRETARY WHO WOULD
DELIVER MESSAGE TO HIM. THIS I DID MAY 6, AT 6 P.M.
TWO HOURS LATER MESSAGE WAS MADE PUBLIC ON TELEVISION
AND RADIO FOLLOWED BY FOLLOWING COMMENT:

"COMMENTING ON THE MESSAGE FROM DOCTOR KISSINGER,
HIS EXCELLENCY, THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
UGANDA AND CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF THE OAU, SAID THAT HE
HAS REALLY BEEN SURPRISED SINCE HIS BIRTH TO RECEIVE
SUCH A MESSAGE FROM DOCTOR KISSINGER PARTICULARLY AS
IT CONTAINS SWEET AND PRAISEWORTHY WORDS ABOUT AFRICA.

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HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT WONDERS

WHETHER HE HAS COME TO SURVEY AFRICA AND THEREAFTER

MAKE PLANS TO SABOTAGE THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE OAU AND THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN PARTICULAR. IT APPEARS THAT DOCTOR KISSINGER HAS FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO MOVE FREELY IN AFRICA AND BRAINWASH AFRICAN LEADERS ON HIS POLICIES. THE PRESIDENT IS ALSO SURPRISED THAT DOCTOR KISSINGER HAS FOUND IT FIT TO SEND HIM THE MESSAGE WHEN HE IS LEAVING THE AFRICAN CONTINENT, WHEREAS UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES HE SHOULD HAVE EITHER SENT THAT MESSAGE TO HIM OR HAVE CALLED ON THE PRESIDENT IN HIS CAPACITY AS THE CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF THE OAU FOR A BRIEFING ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS BEFORE DOCTOR KISSINGER STARTED HIS AFRICAN TOUR.

IN CONCLUSION, HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OBSERVED THAT IT WOULD APPEAR THAT DOCTOR KISSINGER HAS NOW REALIZED AT LONG LAST AS A RESULT OF HIS BRIEF TOUR OF A FEW AFRICAN COUNTRIES, THAT AFRICA OF TODAY IS AWAKE AND AWARE OF MANEUVERS AND TACTICS OF PEOPLE LIKE DOCTOR KISSINGER. THE PRESIDENT HOPES THAT THE BITTER LESSON LEARNT BY DOCTOR KISSINGER DURING HIS TOUR OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENT WILL BE OF GREAT BENEFIT TO ALL OTHER PEOPLE OUTSIDE AFRICA WHO ARE IGNORANT OF AFRICA'S ASPIRATIONS AND OBJECTIVES."

2. IT WAS MOST UNFORTUNATE THAT MESSAGE ARRIVED HERE AT A TIME WHEN SECRETARY OF STATE ALREADY HAD LEFT AFRICA AND ALSO THAT CONTACT WAS NOT MADE PERSONALLY AS THIS EMBASSY HAD SUGGESTED ("TO TELEPHONE AMIN FROM NAIROBI"). AMIN PROBABLY WAS DISAPPOINTED TO RECEIVE

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O R 071801Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8708

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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A MESSAGE ONLY, WHILE HE HAD HOPED TO SEE OR SPEAK TO DR. KISSINGER PERSONALLY. AS I HEARD FROM PERMANENT SECRETARY LUBEGA OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE UGANDAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, BEFORE THE VISIT, ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM PRESIDENT AMIN, HAD COMMUNICATED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE THAT AMIN WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO RECEIVE THE SECRETARY IN UGANDA EITHER AT THE BEGINNING OR THE END OF HIS AFRICAN TOUR PROMISING "A BIG WELCOME" IN KAMPALA, BUT THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAD NEVER REPLIED TO THIS INVITATION. ADDITIONAL DISAPPOINTMENT MIGHT HAVE COME FROM FACT THAT MESSAGE DID NOT CONTAIN ANY PERSONAL WORD FOR AMIN. ELLERKMANN. END TEXT.

3. EMBASSY BONN COMMENT: WE ARE AT A LOSS TO UNDERSTAND WHY ELLERKMANN WAS UNABLE TO DELIVER THE SECRETARY'S MESSAGE BEFORE 6 P.M., MAY 6, BUT WE ASSUME IT HAS TO DO WITH COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN BONN AND KAMPALA. WE DELIVERED MESSAGE TO FOREIGN OFFICE WEDNESDAY EVENING, MAY 5, IMMEDIATELY AFTER RECEIPT. THE FOREIGN OFFICE DUTY OFFICER WAS INFORMED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS SECTION THAT THE PTT IN KAMPALA CLOSED AT 8 P.M. AND THE MESSAGE THEREFORE COULD NOT BE SENT THAT NIGHT, BUT EMBASSY VERIFIED EARLY MORNING MAY 6
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THAT THE MESSAGE WAS THEN ON ITS WAY.
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 07 MAY 1976
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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